THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

Saturday JANUARY 7. 1743. § N°. 45.

Remainder of the Extract *from Mr.* McLaurin's *Letter to Mr.* Edwards.

"I Have had more Comfort than I can eaſily expreſs, in converſing this Summer with ſome *young Men* from the *Eaſtern* Parts, who ſince the late Revival have turn'd their Thoughts towards the Miniſtry; and give good Ground to hope that it is from an uncommon Zeal for the Glory of GOD in the Converſion of Souls. Some of them had begun other Kinds of Buſineſs; but they are of ſuch an Age at preſent, that, if they are ſpar'd, they will be Young, I think, when they have finiſh'd their Univerſity Education".

Extract of a Letter from the ſame Rev. Gentleman, viz. Mr. McLAURIN, *to the late Rev. Mr.* COOPER, *dated alſo at* Glaſgow *in Auguſt laſt.*

Glaſgow, Aug. 9. 1743.

R. D. P.

I Cannot eaſily expreſs how much I reckon my ſelf indebted to you for your laſt Letter, together with what you ſent along with it, and the friendly Reſolution you have form'd of writing to me more frequently afterwards, which is more earneſtly deſir'd than you can well conceive.

After conſidering your Packet and ſome others; tho' it muſt be regretted that ſo many have diſregarded the Warnings given againſt the Things which *your Preface* to *Mr. Edwards's* Diſcourſe mentions, as Things "eſteemed to be the Blemiſhes and like to be the Hindrances of the Work" there ſeems to be no ſmall Ground of Praiſe on the following Accounts, 1. That at ſuch a Diſtance from the Beginning of

this Revival there are ſo comfortable Confirmations of the Reality and Greatneſs of it, from the *Perſeverance* of ſo goodly Numbers. 2. That ſuch Numbers of the chief *Friends and Promoters* of the Work have been enabled to behave ſo towards the chief *Abettors* of theſe Hindrances of it, as muſt I think, oblige candid People not to confound them, but to diſtinguiſh them from one another, as different and contending Parties; in which Conflict it is, I hope, a Token for Good, that the *former* have been enabled to mingle ſo much Meekneſs, with their Steddineſs againſt the *latter*. 3. That there are ſo hopeful Appearances that this *latter Party*, and particularly ſome of their chief Abettors are not incorrigible; but that ſeveral, I would fain hope a goodly Number of them, ſeem to be profiting by after Reflection on their Eſcapes: What a Pity will it be if *juſt Retractations*, which ought to be counted ſo *honourable* in ſo poor fallible Creatures as we are, ſhould bring Contempt on Men for what *ought to be endearing*, and has *ſo juſt a Claim to Encouragement*.

As to the *State of Things Here*, I muſt refer you for a good many Things to the laſt publiſh'd Parts of my valuable Friend Mr. *Robe's Narrative*; whoſe Integrity, Piety and Zeal, for the Life and Power of Godlineſs, I endeavour'd, I ſuppoſe, formerly to make you acquainted with.

The *Corners* where the Revival, with which the MOST HIGH has favour'd us, has appeared moſt remarkably, are as follows, (1) CAMBUSLANG to the *South* of this City, where, beſides the People of that Congregation itſelf, Numbers from other Places have reap'd ſo much Benefit. (2) KILSYTH *and neighbouring Congregations*, to the *North* & *Eaſt* of us, to the Number of *ſix*: in one of which, viz. *Cumbernauld*, tho' the Work did not perhaps make ſo very quick Progreſs as in ſome others, yet for a long Time it had no conſiderable Interruption: And this is the Caſe ſtill ſo far as I know, nor is it very long ſince I had good Account of it. The *remoteſt* of the *ſix Congregations* I am ſpeaking of are not above *ten Miles* from us, I mean as to their Pariſh Churches. (3) St. NINIANS, a very large and populous Congregation contiguous to *Sterlin* (which Town is about 18 *Miles* from us) and *Gargunnock* lying near it. (4) MUTHIL about 11 or 12 *Miles North* from *Stirlin*, and *ſeveral neighbouring Congregations*. I think it was laſt Spring that I had credible Information that the Number of the awaken'd in that

that Corner was reaſonably computed then to amount to about or above *five Hundred*: And the Work there has made conſiderable Progreſs ſince. It ſeems indeed to be the Corner where the Work is at preſent, and has been for ſome Time moſt flouriſhing. The *Miniſter* beſides his eminent Piety and Solidity, is alſo of conſiderable Age and Experience. (5) TORRYBURN and CARNOCK; of which, at leaſt of the former, you have ſome Accounts from your pious and learned young Correſpondent.

In *May* or *April* laſt, refreſhing Letters came hither from a worthy *Miniſter* at ABERDEEN above 100 *Miles North* and *Eaſt* from us, concerning a Revival in a Corner about 100 *Miles North* from *them*, tho' not therefore 200 *Miles North* from us, in the Shire or *County* of ROSS. We long'd for Confirmation, which came not long after, by ſome Miniſters from thoſe Parts, who were going to the General Aſſembly, but firſt viſited *Muthil*, *Kilſyth* and *Cambuſlang*; and in their Way to the Place laſt mentioned favour'd me with their Converſation, and told that the Revival in their Bounds, which had been chiefly remarkable ſince *November* laſt, ſeem'd to extend leſs or more to about *ten* or *eleven Pariſhes*: And was not attended, at leaſt in any conſiderable Degree with the bodily Diſtreſſes which *ſome*, and indeed *but ſome*, in our *Weſt Country* have been affected with. Mr. *Robe* had prevail'd on ſome of them to ſend more particular Accounts afterwards, which are much long'd for. Tho' they were ſolid cautious Men, far from a Byaſs to hyperbolical Ways of ſpeaking; it was with uncommon Expreſſions of joyful Admiration that they diſcrib'd the Satisfaction they had the *Friday's Evening before* I ſaw them, in a praying Society of *young Ones* in the Pariſh of *Muthil*, before they reach'd the Miniſter's Houſe, and about two Miles from it; a Society, through divine Mercy, happy under the Inſpection of a pious and zealous *Schoolmaſter*.

Beſides the Corners where the Revival has appear'd in a *more diſcernible Manner*, as in the Places firſt mentioned above; there are good Informations concerning a *Number of Places* as favour'd with comfortable Evidences of a real Revival, leſs or more, ſurpaſſing former Years, tho' in a *more ſilent and ſecret Way*; ſuch as the Increaſe of Attendance on Ordinances, of ſerious Attention to them, of Communicants, of praying Societies, of religious Converſation, and the like

good Signs, which you will find put together in a Part of the lateſt Continuation of the *Kilſyth Narrative*. Pages 212,213. [*Chriſtian Hiſtory* Page 351.]

No longer ago than yeſterday a Gentleman of a good Character who has been this Seaſon pretty far in the *North* of SCOTLAND in the County of *Murray*, told me he had taken ſome Notes of very good Accounts he got in a Corner there, which he kindly promiſed to ſend me after he returns home to *Fife*; but I fear they may not come to Hand before this Veſſel ſails.

In EDINBURGH, they who have beſt Acceſs to know the State of Religion there, give from Time to Time very comfortable Accounts of its Progreſs, appearing by various Evidences which perhaps many who live there, know little or nothing about it: tho' indeed there are ſome good Things of *publick Notoriety*, ſuch as the Increaſe of Attendance on Ordinances, and of Communicants. It ſeems to me that THIS TOWN comes far ſhort of EDINBURGH as to Progreſs in Religion of late; tho' there has been I hope, of a long Time, a goodly Number of ſincerely pious Perſons in it. Yet as none of the Fruits, eſpecially of the moſt precious Fruits of infinite Mercy, ought to be denied or diminiſhed; it muſt be acknowledged, our gracious LORD has not left us without ſuch Tokens for Good, as thoſe abovementioned. I never had near ſo many coming to me for private Inſtruction about the State of their Souls as *within theſe two Years*.

Notwithſtanding of *Inſtances* of *Backſlidings*, which we behov'd always to lay our Account with, eſpecially among thoſe even in whom the Judgment of Charity could diſcern little or nothing but mere Conviction, without comfortable Evidences of their cloſing with CHRIST, or their being duly intent on that main Point: Yet as to thoſe who gave the *probable Evidences* of ſaving Faith and of Love, according to my beſt Informations and Obſervations, ſuch a Number ſeem to *perſevere* as I think may be reckon'd the Generality; or a great Majority.

About the *Beginning* of this Revival, in conferring and reaſoning about it; it was ſometimes argued that tho' only the *half*, or *third* Part, or any Part bearing a *conſiderable Proportion* to the whole of ſuch a Number, ſhould evidence *Sincerity* by *Perſeverance*; it ought to be eſteemed an extraordinary Inſtance of the Succeſs of the Goſpel: Now *after ſuch*

a Diſtance of Time, it is unſpeakable Matter of Praiſe, that the Reality of the Work is confirm'd, through Grace, according to the above Remark, by the *Perſeverance* not merely of ſome Part, but of ſo great a Number of the Character above hinted".

Your affectionate and much obliged humble Servant in our common LORD, JOHN McLAURIN.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. HAMILTON *of* Barony Pariſh, *to the Rev. Mr.* PRINCE, *dated alſo at* Glaſgow *in Auguſt laſt.*

Glaſgow, Aug. 12th. 1743.

Rev. and dear Sir,

"WE have ſtill bleſſed be GOD good News to write from our Parts: Tho' there be not ſuch a diſcernable Work of *Conviction* at *Cambuſlang* and *Kilſyth* as laſt Year; yet I am well informed that much Good is doing at both Places: Some are awakened and brought to a Senſe of their Sin and Miſery, and many more eſtabliſhed and confirmed in the Ways of God, and filled with Peace and Joy in believing. Ordinances continue to be much better attended in *moſt of our Congregations* than formerly. Societies for Prayer are ſtill kept up, and in *many Places* encreaſing: All which is Ground of much Thankſulneſs. Oppoſers indeed and ſuch as view Things ſuperficially, conclude, that all is in a good Meaſure over: but they are very much miſtaken; which a nearer View of the Caſe, were they at all inclined to take, would eaſily convince them of. But tho' this be the Scituation of Things in *our Part* of the Country; yet we are informed upon the beſt Authority, to wit, the Miniſters themſelves concerned, that the Work of GOD is prevailing much in *other Parts* of it. At *Muthell* a Pariſh about *thirty Miles Northward* of *Glaſgow*, and *ſeveral other Places* of *that Neighbourhood*, there has been, and ſtill is, a *remarkable Diſplay* of GOD's Power and Grace in the *Conviction* and *Converſion* of Sinners. Nay we are informed from the County of ROSS, a *Highland* Country *near two hundred Miles North* of us, by *three* of *their Miniſters* who came to *Glaſgow* and *Cambuſlang* in *May* laſt; that the ſame bleſſed Work was begun among them, and appearing in *ten* or *eleven* of *their Pariſhes*. What Ground of Praiſe muſt this be to all who have the Intereſt of CHRIST and Religion at Heart?

You

You ſee dear Sir, That the *ſame Methods* are uſed to bear down this good Work among us that were taken with you: Falſhhood, Miſrepreſentation and Slander are all thought juſtifyable in order to bring it into Diſcredit. A *ſtriking Inſtance* of which you have in *the Letter from a Gentleman in* Scotland *to his Friend in* New-England. The Author himſelf, p. 14. calls it *a rambling Kind of Narrative:* And I can aſſure you that in this he is not miſtaken: It is wide Rambling indeed, and goes exceedingly out of the Paths of Truth. I deſigned to have ſent you a *few Remarks* upon it; but am ſo ſtraitned of Time for the Reaſon given before, that I cannot get it overtaken.

Your affectionate Brother,
And very humble Servant.
JOHN HAMILTON.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev Mr. ROBE *of* Kilſyth, *to the Rev. Mr.* EDWARDS *of* Northampton.

Kilſyth, Auguſt 16. 1743.

Rev. Sir, and very dear Brother,

"WE acknowledge with Praiſe and Thanks, the LORD's keeping his Work hitherto *with us* free from thoſe Errors and Diſorders, which through the Subtilty of the Serpent, and the Corruptions even of good Men, were mixed with it in NEW-ENGLAND. As this was no more juſt Ground of Objection againſt what was among *you* being a a real Work of the HOLY SPIRIT, than the ſame Things were againſt the Work of GOD in *Corinth* and *other Places* at the *firſt Converſion of the Pagans*, and afterwards at the *Reformation from Popery*; ſo the many Adverſaries to this bleſſed Work here, have made uſe of all thoſe Errors, Diſorders and Blemiſhes againſt it *there*, as Objections, as if they had really been *here*. The moſt unfavourable Accounts from *America*, the moſt ſcurrilous and bitter Pamphlets, and Repreſentations from miſtaking Brethren, were much & zealouſly propagated. Only it was over-ruled by Providence, that the moſt of thoſe Letters and Papers dropped what was a real Teſtimony to the Goodneſs of the Work, they deſigned to defame and render odious. Many thinking Perſons concluded from the groſs Calumnies forged and ſpread againſt the LORD's Work *here* within a few Miles of them, that ſuch Stories from *America* could not be much depended upon.

What

What you write about the *Trial* of *extraordinary* Joys *and Raptures*, by their *Concomitants* and *Effects*, is moſt ſolid; and our Practice by all I know, hath been conform to it. It hath been in the ſtrongeſt Manner declared, that no Degree of ſuch rapturous Joys evidenced them to be from GOD, unleſs they led to GOD, and carried with them thoſe Things which accompany Salvation. Such *conditional Applications* of the *Promiſes* of Grace and Glory as you juſtly recommend, hath been all along our Manner. A *holy Fear of Caution* and *Watchfulneſs* hath been much preſſed upon the Subjects of this Work who appeared to believe through Grace. And what is greatly comfortable, and Reaſon of great Praiſe to our GOD is, that there is as yet known to me in theſe Bounds no certain Inſtance of what can be called Apoſtacy; and not above four Inſtances of any who have fallen into any groſs Sin.

As to the State and Progreſs of this bleſſed Work *here* and in *other Places*, it is as followeth. Since the Account given in the ſeveral Prints of my *Narrative*, which I underſtand is or will be at *Boſton*; the awakening of ſecure Sinners hath and doth continue in this Congregation; but not in ſuch Multitudes as laſt Year; neither can it be reaſonably expected. What is Ground of Joy and Praiſe is, that there ſcarce hath been *two* or *three Weeks* but wherein I have *ſome Inſtance* of Perſons *newly awakened*, beſides ſeveral come to my Knowledge who have been awakened and appear in a moſt hopeful State, before they were known to me. Of which I had an Inſtance *Yeſterday* of a *Girl* awakened as ſhe ſaith in *October laſt*. I have at writing this, an Inſtance of a *Woman* who appears to have attained a good Iſſue of her awakening laſt Year; tho' I ſuppoſed it had come to nothing, through her intermitting to come to me of a long Time. There is this Difference in *this Pariſh* betwixt the Awakening *laſt Year* and *now*; that none of their *Bodies* have been affected by their Fears in a convulſive or hyſteric Way; and yet the *inward Diſtreſs* of ſome of them hath been very ſharp. I have ſeen *two* or *three* who have *fainted* under Apprehenſion of the Hiding of GOD's Face, or their having received the Lord's Supper unworthily. In ſome of the *neighbouring Congregations* where this bleſſed Work was *laſt Year*, there are Inſtances of *diſcernable Awakenings this Summer*. In the large Pariſh of St. NINIANS to the *North* of this, I was witneſs to the *awakening of ſome* and converſed with others *awakened*, *middle*

of

of *July laſt*. In the Pariſh of SINTRIE to the *Weſt* of St. NINIANS there were ſeveral *newly awakened* at the giving the Lord's Supper, *End* of *July*. In GARGUNNOCK, KIPPEN, KILLERN farther *North* and *Weſt*, the LORD's Work is yet diſcernable. At MUTHEL which is about *twenty Miles North* from this; the Miniſter wrote me about the *Middle* of *July*, that this bleſſed Work which hath appeared *there ſince laſt Summer* as at *Cambuſlang*, yet *continueth*; and hath ſpread into *other Pariſhes* and reacheth even to the *Highlands* bordering upon that Pariſh.

I am not without Hopes of having good Accounts of the *Out-pouring* of the HOLY SPIRIT in the *Shires* of ROSSE and NAIRN among the *northermoſt* Parts of SCOTLAND. There was more than ordinary Seriouſneſs in ſome Pariſhes in hearing the Word, and in a Concern about their Souls; in *the Spring*, when I ſaw ſome godly *Miniſters* from *thoſe Bounds*. This more than ordinary Seriouſneſs in hearing, and about Communion Times, is obſervable in ſeveral Parts in SCOTLAND *this Summer*. *Societies for Prayer ſetting up* where there were none, and in other Places *increaſing*. A Concern among the *Young* are in ſome of the leaſt hopeful Places in SCOTLAND, particularly in the MEUSE near the *Engliſh Borders*. There is a great Likelihood of the LORD's doing Good by the Goſpel in this diſcernable Way in thoſe Bounds. Mr. *McLaurin*, my dear Brother, gives you an Account of the Progreſs of this Work to the *Weſt* of GLASGOW and *other Places*. There have been very *extraordinary Manifeſtations* of the Love of GOD in CHRIST JESUS unto his People in the Uſe of the *holy Supper*, and in the Diſpenſation of the *Word* about that Time, *this Summer*: Which hath made the LORD's People deſire it a *ſecond Time* in theſe Congregations during the Summer Seaſon. It was given here upon the *firſt Sabbath* of *July*, and is to be given here *next Lord's Day a ſecond Time*, upon ſuch a Deſire."

Your affectionate Brother and Servant
in our deareſt LORD,

JAMES ROBE.

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